



STATE OF NEW MEXICO
GOVERNOR BILL RICHARDSON



For Immediate Release
July 27, 2010

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New Mexico Organ Donor Registry Reaches One Millionth Mark

ALBUQUERQUE – Governor Bill Richardson announced today that one million New Mexicans have now registered to be organ and tissue donors at the Motor Vehicle Division or on the new online Donate Life Donor Registry at www.nmdonor.org.

“The generosity of New Mexicans is at the core of the success of the Donate Life Donor Registry” said Governor Richardson. “We have made it easy for New Mexicans to just login and sign up as organ donors and they are responding in record numbers.”

Last August, Governor Richardson unveiled the donor registry website and became the first New Mexican to register as an organ donor on the site. Since then nearly 230,000 New Mexicans have register to become organ donors, bringing the count to the millionth mark.

“New Mexico continues to be in the forefront of promoting organ donation and that’s reflected in our high rates of donor registrations and organ transplants that is saving lives every day,” said Michael Sandoval, Director of Motor Vehicle Division.

The New Mexico Donor Registry ensures that an individual’s decision to save lives is honored, whether they are making that decision at MVD or online at www.nmdonor.org. The online donor registry allows individuals to register as donors, specify the organs/tissues donated, select the uses of their donation, or remove a donor registration.

New Mexico was one of the first states to institute the donor registration on the driver’s license. Since 1978, the Motor Vehicle Division has supported an individual’s decision to save lives by asking customers if they would like to register to be an organ and tissue donor on the driver’s license or identification card. The percentage of MVD customers who say “Yes” and register as donors is over 50 percent. Enrollment varies from county to county, with Los Alamos County setting the highest number of registrations at 67 percent to McKinley County with the lowest number of registrations at 17 percent.

“Every person who makes the decision to register as a donor is a hero. They can save the lives of up to nine people with donated organs, and over fifty with donated tissues,” said Patricia Niles, CEO of New Mexico Donor Services.

New Mexico has one of the highest organ donor registration rates – ranking among the top 10 in the country. About 50 percent of New Mexicans who have a license or ID card has registered to give the ultimate Gift of Life. The website and registry were created through an \$115,000 grant from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services; and is a collaborative effort between the Motor Vehicle Division, New Mexico Donor Services and New Mexico Lions Eye Bank. This is a highly secured registry that will house information on organ donors who have signed up with the Motor Vehicle Division while getting or renewing their driver's licenses or ID cards and those who will register on-line.

Currently, 108,000 men, women and children are listed for a life-saving organ transplant, including 687 New Mexico residents. Nineteen people die each day waiting for a life-saving organ. For information and to register as an organ and tissue donor in New Mexico, visit your local MVD office or go online to www.nmdonor.org

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